WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for access authentication within a communications network, comprising a host data center in communication with one or more remote data centers, comprising:

a master directory service contained within said host data center, said directory service containing data regarding personnel who are authorized to access devices in said data centers;

a directory structure replication hub contained within said host data center, which receives directory structure information from said master directory structure; and

a plurality of directory structure copies contained within each of said remote data centers, accessible by said devices.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of copies of said data structure is accessed by way of multiple servers via a load balancer, which balances the load handled by each copy of the directory structure contained within the customer data centers.

3. A master directory structure, having a series of accounts contained within said master directory structure, comprising:

multiple customer accounts subdirectories contained within said master directory structure;

a group of directory nodes contained within said customer account directory subtree that have access only to other nodes within said customer directory subtree.

4. The master directory structure of claim 3, wherein said customer directory structures each contain multiple user accounts.

5. A method for managing multiple customer accounts comprising the steps of:

creating a master directory structure;

replicating said master directory structure to multiple directory structures accessible by customer servers attached to a computer network.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said master directory structure is contained within a host data center.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said master directory structure is replicated by a directory structure replicating hub, said directory structure replicating hub being contained within said host data center.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said multiple directory structures are distributed among multiple remote data centers.